

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants fully reserve their rights to prosecute the subject matter of any canceled claim in one or more continuation, continuation-in-part or divisional applications. New claims 22-30 have been added. The subject matter of the new claims is fully supported in the specification. No new matter has been added.

A copy of the claims as pending after entry of the foregoing amendment is attached as Exhibit A. Applicants respectfully requests entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following Groups:

- I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a method for treating hepatitis B (HBV) infection through the mechanism of blocking the translation of Pyk2 kinase, classified in class 514, subclass 44;
- II: Claims 1 and 13-14, drawn to a method for treating the HBV infection through the target protein of HBx, classified in class 435, subclass 339;
- III: Claims 15-18, drawn to a method for treating HBV infection through the mechanism of modulating the cytosolic calcium release, classified in class 424, subclass 9.1;
- IV: Claim 19, drawn to a pharmaceutical formulation for treatment of HBV infection compromising a compound that inhibits the activation of Pyk2 kinase, classified in class 536, subclass 24.5;
- V: Claim 20, drawn to a pharmaceutical formulation for treatment of HBV infection comprising a compound that inhibits HBx, classified in class 514, subclass 49; and

VI: Claim 21, drawn to a pharmaceutical formulation for treatment of HBV infection comprising a compound that [inhibits the activities of the HBx gene product essential to] sustain the HBV life cycle, classified in class 514, subclass 11.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I-VI are distinct.

Applicants elect, with traverse, the invention of Group III, drawn to a method for treating HBV infection through the mechanism of modulating the cytosolic calcium release, to prosecute in the present application without prejudice to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected Groups in subsequent applications.

It is believed that no fee is necessary for filing this response. In the event that a fee is required, please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the application. An early allowance of the application is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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